

Poison ivy poses danger on the farm

LANCASTER — Poison ivy and farm safety? You may not think that a discussion on this nasty plant is conducive to painting the complete farm safety picture, but it is!

Every year people suffer from mild to severe cases of poison ivy. Most of these people contact the poison while walking innocently

through the woods or pastures on their farm. One Bedford County woman suffered swollen, itchy, puffy legs for over two weeks because she brushed against the ivy while simply scooting under a fence to go round up the herd of grazing cattle.

Poison ivy is without a doubt one of nature's nastiest plants, found almost everywhere. If left uncontrolled, it will crowd out more desirable plants and soon render an area unfit for human activity.

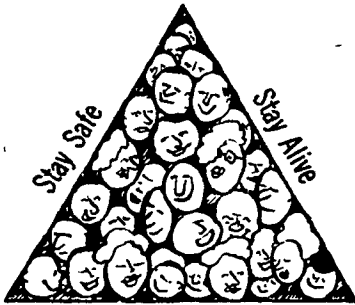
This ivy is typically a woody vine, consisting of three easy-to-recognize, large, glossy green leaflets. These turn a deceptively attractive yellow and orange in the fall. Clusters of white, waxy berries are sometimes found along the stems. These help to identify the plant during its leafless winter stage. Remember, all parts are poisonous, including the roots and

fruit. People differ in their sensitivity to poison ivy. Some individuals are practically immune while others may be seriously affected, requiring a doctor's attention and possibly even hospital care. Learn to recognize and avoid this

noxious weed at all times of the year. If you do happen to come in actual contact with it, wash the exposed skin immediately and thoroughly with soap.

The simplest and safest way to kill poison ivy is with a chemical weedkiller. Do not try to control

the pest by hand because you'll expose your skin to the plant and you'll also probably inhale it. Inhaling poison ivy can be dangerous to the lungs. Don't try to burn the ivy as even the smoke is poisonous.—DK



We need all of you

Did you receive a farm safety questionnaire?

LANCASTER — Questionnaires for the Farm Accident Safety Program survey being conducted by PFA were mailed at the beginning of the year to 1,500 randomly-selected PFA members. The response from the

questionnaires has been less than favorable, so PFA would like to remind farmers who received them to return them soon. They need your cooperation to make the survey a success.

Data collected will be used to develop a profile of a typical farm operation in Pennsylvania. Later,

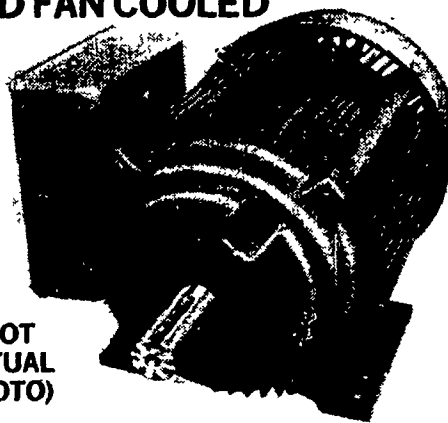
accident information will be compared with survey findings to develop useful safety suggestions and programs.

Long-term goals of Farm Accident Safety Program are to reduce frequency and severity of farm accidents, and to lower farmers' insurance costs.

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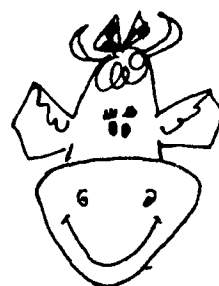
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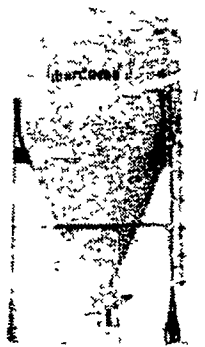
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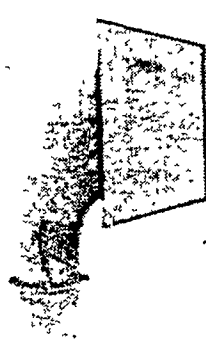
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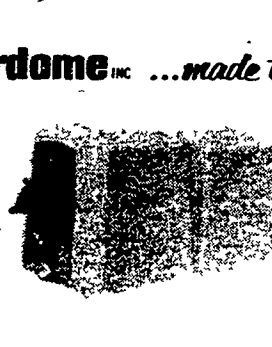
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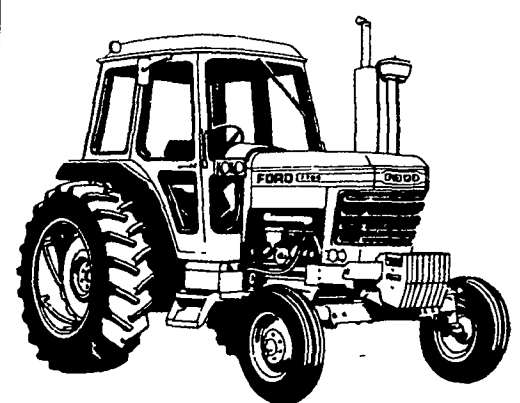
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